
INVESTIGATIVE MEMORANDUM ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES

September 27, 2001

To: Jayne Seidman

From: Walter Stachnik

Re: Public Transportation Subsidy Program (G-335)

In a recent investigation (OIG-335), we found that there appeared to be some confusion as to how employees in certain regional and district offices should complete Form SEC 2445, Application for Transit Benefit. Currently, Form SEC 2445 is used for employees to apply for transportation subsidy benefits on an agency-wide basis. Employees are required to certify on Form SEC 2445 that they will use the fare benefit for their regular daily commute to and/or from work and that the monthly benefit the employee receives will not exceed the employees' average monthly commuting costs.

However, some regional and district offices participate in transit benefit programs that may require 100% employee participation and provide a transit benefit on an annual basis, rather than on a monthly basis (as is the case in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area). Under these programs, employees receive an annual pass (paid for entirely by the SEC) that allows them unlimited use of the local public transportation system. Form SEC 2445 does not appear to be well-suited to these types of annual programs.

Recommendation A

The Office of Administrative and Personnel Management should develop alternative procedures and forms for applying for transit benefits to be used in regional and district offices that participate in annual transit benefit programs.

Recommendation B

The Office of Administrative and Personnel Management should review SECR 5-9 (May 12, 1998) to determine whether any modifications to that regulation are necessary to accommodate regional and district office transit benefit programs.

cc: James Clarkson
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Stephen Johnston
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